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Involvement in United Nations and other international forums
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In 1973 I met George Manuel, President of the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB), now known as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) when I was Executive Director of the Native Youth Association of Canada. George later became the Founding President of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) in 1975. Through this relationship I was introduced to international matters.

In 1976 I attended the UN Habitat Conference in Vancouver, BC participating in the international Indigenous forum. In 1977 at the joint meeting of the Canadian Indian Lawyers Association (CILA) and Native Law Students Association (NLSA) preceding the Geneva conference, I brought forward successfully a resolution to send a delegation of one representative each from the CILA and NLSA, but was not selected as the NLSA representative. Willie Littlechild was the CILA representative.

In 1978 at a meeting in Vancouver, BC where as a volunteer representing the WCIP I received information on the IVth Russell Tribunal to be held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in 1979, which I subsequently attended to bring forward the situation of the Métis people in Canada. Willie Littlechild was also in attendance.

In May 1981, again as a volunteer, I attended the 3rd General Assembly of the WCIP in Australia, and subsequently attended the September 1981 conference at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland. In December 1981 I also attended a UN sponsored seminar on human rights in Managua, Nicaragua as part of the WCIP delegation.

In 1982, I attended the summer session of the Human Right Commission's Sub-Commission on Indigenous peoples. After this time I was an active participant in several of the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

In September 1984 in Panama City I was elected President of the WCIP, which was invited shortly thereafter to be an Observer at the peace talks between the government of Nicaragua and the Indian resistance movement (MISURASATA) in Nicaragua under the leadership of Brooklyn Rivera. The WCIP remained an Observer at the subsequent 3 peace talk sessions in 1985.

Erica Irene Daes, Chair of the WGIP was also in attendance at the 1984 WCIP GA, and participated in the drafting of a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was adopted by that General Assembly.

I served as President of the WCIP until July 1987, after which time I became more involved with my own Nation within Canada. In December 1993 I was elected as one of the two Vice-Presidents of the WCIP a position I served in until the winding down of the WCIP in 1996.

From 1993-1996 I served the Métis Nation as International Ambassador. In 1998 I was elected as President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, and in 2003, elected as President of the Métis National Council, which since 1997 has consultative status with ECOSOC. During this 16 year tenure I have continued being active in international affairs. I continue to serve as the leader of the Métis Nation.

Subsequently, I did attend various events/meetings at the UN in Geneva, including negotiations of the draft declaration, later adopted in 2007. This also includes attendance at other UN events such as the 2003 Earth Summit in South Africa, and the inaugural session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) in New York, and all subsequent sessions. I also attended the first session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

In connection to the Americas, I have been active in the Organization of American States (OAS), beginning with participating in the first meeting of experts in Mexico in 1990 with a view to the OAS adopting a Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas in 1992, the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas. This work of course is still on-going. I have in this context attended a number of the negotiation sessions, as well as OAS General Assemblies and Summits of the Americas.

In 2011 I was a member of a fact-finding mission to examine the situation of the Rapa Nui in Rapanui (Easter Island, Chile) which resulted in a report published by IWGIA.

Since at least 2006, I have been actively working, along with other Indigenous leaders from the Americas, to establish an Indigenous Leaders organization of the Americas which could become more engaged in the work of the OAS, including the negotiations on the draft declaration, as well as creating our own space within the infrastructure of the OAS. This body if created would also be able to work on the many issues engaged in by the UN itself. In December 2010 published book on Nicaragua, and in March 2012 published a Spanish translation.

Within my own peoples, the Métis Nation, besides my elected positions, under the guidance of the Elders I have since 1994 defended many of our hunters and fishers in the courts on a pro bono (free of charge) basis and have established the right in many parts of our homeland for our people to engage in these traditional practices without fear of being prosecuted.

I also remain active in pursuing the right of my people to a land and resource base.